foetus lest it should lead to female foeticide. The Central Supervisory Board (CSB) constituted under the Chairmanship of Minister for Health and Family Welfare has been further empowered for monitoring the implementation of the Act. State level Supervisory Boards in the line of the CSB constituted at the Centre has been introduced for monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the Act in States/UTs. The State/UT level Appropriate Authority have been made a multi member body for better implementation and monitoring of the Act in the States. More stringent punishments are prescribed under the Act so as to serve as a deterrent for minimizing violations of the Act. Appropriate Authorities are empowered with the powers of Civil Court for search, seizure and sealing the machines, equipments and records of the violators of law including sealing of premises and commissioning of witnesses. It has been made mandatory to maintain proper records in respect of the use of ultrasound machines and other equipments capable of detection of sex of foetus and also in respect of tests and procedures that may lead to pre-conception selection of sex. The sale of ultrasound machines has been regulated through laying down the condition of sale only to the bodies registered under the Act.

2. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has taken a number of steps for the implementation of the Act, IEC activities for generating awareness among the public about the debilitating impact of skewed Sex Ratio on the society, sensitization/training of the implementating agencies, including the lower judiciary and the Public Prosecutors.

Guidelines for Centralized Drug Programme

1629. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what mechanism is in force for checking the genuineness and originality of the medicines issued to patients through Government hospitals particularly in CGHS dispensaries functioning in the country;

(b) the number of fake drug suppliers detected/arrested and action taken against them;

(c) whether Government proposes to formulate guidelines for centralized drug programmes and to ensure that such a move does not allow drug, manufacture and suppliers to raise MRP for general public; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) CGHS procures the medicines through HSCC Noida and MSO R.K. Puram. Before supplying medicines to CGHS a team of experts comprising of officers from GMSD/HSCC and representatives of CGHS, inspects the consignment for physical verification, the quantity supplied & labelling etc. The team draws random samples from each batch of medicine, make them coded and sent to two randomly selected approved laboratories for quality testing. Only on receipt of satisfactory result the medicines are supplied to CGHS cities.

(b) No, Sir. No such incidence has come to the notice of CGHS so far.

(c) and (d) Presently there is no uniform purchase system for purchase of drugs in the Central Government as well as the State Governments. The system of procurement of drugs must essentially ensure that quality drugs are purchase and they have active ingredients at the maximum level throughout the shelf life period of the drug.